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City Employees Honored By State Association For Outstanding Work

For Immediate Release
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(May 10, 2005- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian proudly announced Tuesday that two longtime City employees were recently honored with prestigious awards for their work at the John P. Buckley Water Treatment Plant.

With well over 50 years of experience between the two of them, Neil Bonesteel, the Chief Water Plant Operator for the City of Troy, and Michael Cramer, the Supervising Water Plant Operator, were honored at the spring meeting of the New York Section of the American Water Works Association for outstanding contributions to the City of Troy.

Bonesteel was awarded the George Warren Fuller award, which is presented annually to the person who has shown distinguished service in the water supply field in commendation of the sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent and constructive leadership characterized by Fuller.

Cramer was awarded the Operator's Meritorious Service award, given to the member of the section that has risen above his peers through outstanding performance as an operator. Cramer was cited for continuous compliance with public health standards, for excellence in operation and maintenance, and outstanding achievement beyond normal operating responsibilities.

Last year, the City of Troy finished first in a competition at the New York State Fair for the best tasting above ground water in New York. Tutunjian said Tuesday that it should come as no surprise that their peers honored the men responsible for the first place finish.

"Congratulations to Neil and Mike for both their outstanding achievement and long commitment to the City of Troy," Tutunjian said. "We are very proud to have the best tasting water in New York State, but that is an accomplishment that could not have happened if it were not for tireless work of people like Neil and Mike. Being honored by the American Water Works Association is a terrific accomplishment, and one we are all very proud of."

The AWWA was founded in 1881 and is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world, and is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in North America and beyond.